

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center joins North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department**

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center along with Fort Mandan joins the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) as of May 1, following Governor Jack Dalrymple's signing of the department's appropriation legislation which included funds for purchasing the Center's artwork/artifacts and operations funding for the next biennium.

The NDPRD has owned the Interpretive Center since its construction along with the land. The additional purchase of artifacts and operating funds provided by the State of North Dakota are part of the conditions as the state takes over ownership.

All staff currently hired by the Lewis and Clark Foundation will stay in place until the end of September at which time the NDPRD will determine a course of action regarding employees. The NDPRD will hire four full-time employees to run operations at the Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan along with seasonal staff in the spring of 2016.

Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan fees along with hours of operation will remain the same through May and June. State park patrons with the 2015 annual pass will be allowed to enter the museum and interpretive areas.

For more information about the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan contact Gordon Weixel at 701-328-5357.